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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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USMISSION NATO

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SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - MAY 12

1. SUMMARY: HIGHLIGHTS:

-- PRAVDA REPORTS THE SOVIET MFA NOTE OF MAY 11 CHARGING CONTINUING HARASSMENT OF SOVIET OFFICIALS IN NEW YORK (SEPTTEL). PRAVDA COMMENTS CRITICALLY ON THE SECRETARY'S AFRICAN TRIP, SAYING THAT AFRICANS ARE SKEPTICAL OF HIS PLEDGES (SEPTTEL). OTHER U.S. COVERAGE IS TYPICALLY NEGATIVE;

-- PRAVDA'S LEAD EDITORIAL SUPPORTS SALT AND SOVIET DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS, OPPOSES HIGHER MILITARY SPENDING AND SAYS ITS OWN IS DECREASING;

-- ON PANAMA, A REPLAY OF AN INTERVIEW WITH VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ HAS HIM ENDORSING PANAMA'S RIGHT TO SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE CANAL ZONE;

-- COVERAGE OF THE UNCTAD MEETING FEATURES THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE'S SPEECH FAVORING ECONOMIC NATIONALISM BY LDC'S AND DENOUNCING PEKING'S "DEMAGOGY";

-- ON THE MIDDLE EAST, THE ACTIVITIES OF NEW LEBANESE PRESIDENT ARKIS ARE TREATED FAVORABLY. THE CONCLUSION OF THE IRAQI CP'S MEETING IS REPORTED; AS IS SOVIET UN AMBASSADOR MALIK'S STATEMENT ON ALLEGED ISRAELI ACTIONS AGAINST PALESTINAIANS IN OCCUPIED AREAS;

-- AND SEVERAL ITEMS ON WESTERN EUROPE PLAY UP DETENTE AND MORE ACTIVE CONTACTS BUT DECRY PRO-NATO VOICES. END SUMMARY.

2. U.S. PRAVDA CITES COMMENTS BY SENATORS MCGOVERN

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AND MCINTYRE AND CONGRESSMAN BINGHAM OPPOSING THE PROPOSED DEFENSE BUDGET. AMONG THE ITEMS CRITICIZED ARE THE DEVELOPMENT OF CRUISE MISSILES AND THE OBSTACLES WHICH NEW WEAPONS WOULD RAISE IN REACHING NEW ARMS LIMITATIONS AGREEMENTS. PRAVDA CARRIES ANOTHER IN ITS CONTINUING SERIES ON THE DOCUMENTS OF THE SENATE SELECT COMMISSION ON INTELLIGENCE, THIS TIME CITING PORTIONS ABOUT FBI SURVEILLANCE AND ACTIONS AGAINST RADICAL AND "UNDERGROUND ELEMENTS."

3. PRAVDA DEVOTES ITS FRONT-PAGE LEAD EDITORIAL TO DISARMAMENT, CITING LONG EXCERPTS FROM BREZHNEV'S 25TH CONGRESS SPEECH SUPPORTING SOVIET DISARMAMENT INITIATIVES. THE EDITORIAL DENOUNCES THOSE WHO CITE A "SO-CALLED SOVIET THREAT" TO JUSTIFY HIGHER MILITARY BUDGETS AND NEW TYPES OF WEAPONS AND SAYS THAT THE SOVIET UNION "HAS NOT AND DOES NOT INTEND TO INCREASE ITS MILITARY BUDGET", "ON THE CONTRARY, IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS" IT HAS REDUCED ITS MILITARY SPENDING. THE ITEM ENDORSES A FURTHER SALT AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. AND SAYS THAT ON MBFR THE "SOCIALIST COUNTRIES" HAVE PUT FORTH "NEW CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS."

4. PANAMA/VENEZUELA. IZVESTIYA FRONT-PAGES A REPORT FROM SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GAVRYUSHENKO FROM CARACAS CITING A RECENT INTERVIEW BY FOREIGN JOURNALISTS WITH VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ IN WHICH HE CALLS FOR THE "LIQUIDATION" OF THE U.S. PRESENCE IN THE CANAL ZONE. HE ENDORSES THE CALL FOR PANAMANIAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ZONE AND EXPRESSES REGRET THAT THE ISSUES HAS BECOME A PART OF CAMPAIGN POLITICS IN THE US.

5. UNCTAD. PRAVDA CARRIES AN ITEM FROM NAIROBI HIGHLIGHTING THE MAIN POINTS OF THE SPEECH BY SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER PATOLICHEV. ACCORDING TO THE TASS ACCOUNT, PATOLICHEV SUPPORTED THE EFFORTS BY NEWLY-LIBERATED COUNTRIES TO ACHIEVE CONTROL OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THEIR OPPOSITION TO "IMPERIALIST EXPLOITATION." HE PLEDGED SOVIET COOPERATION IN EFFORTS TO IMPROVE WORLD COMMODITIES MARKETS IN THE INTERESTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND LINED THE PROCESS OF DETENTE TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC PROSPECTS FOR THE LDC'S. HE REPORTEDLY DENOUNCED PEKING'S STATEMENT AS "DEMAGOGY" AND CALLED FOR PRACTICAL EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE COOPERATION BETWEEN SOCIALIST AND DEVELOPING STATES.

6. MIDDLE EAST. PRAVDA REPORTS THE ACTIVITIES OF NEWLY-ELECTED PRESIDENT SARKIS IN MEETING AND CONSULTING WITH VARIOUS POLITICAL FACTIONS IN LEBANON IN AN EFFORT TO REDUCE THE CRISIS AND NORMALIZE THE SITUATION. THE TREATMENT OF SARKIS IS FAVORABLE BUT TENTATIVE. PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA REPORT THE CONCLUSION OF THE IRAQI CP CONGRESS, CITING IN PARTICULAR THE NEW PARTY PROGRAM. THE PORTIONS CITED REPORTEDLY ENDORSE THE "INFLUENCE AND AUTHORITY OF THE FORIEGN POLICY COURSE OF THE SOVIET UNION" AND REITERATED THE NEED FOR STRONG SOVIET -ARAB TIES. PRAVDA REPORTS SOVIET UN REPRESENTATIVE MALIK'S SLASHING STATEMENT IN THE SC DEBATE ON THE WEST BANK

CONDEMNING ISRAEL'S "RACIST POLICY" AGAINST THE POPULATION OF THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES. PRAVDA'S ACCOUNT CITES MALIK AS SAYING THAT THE ISRAELIS SEEK TO "CRUSH THE WILL OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE" AND AS CHARGING THE ISRAELIS WITH REPRESSION, ARRESTS AND VARIOUS OTHER ABUSES.

7. WESTERN EUROPE. SEVERAL ITEMS REPORT SUPPORT FOR DETENTE AND CONCRETE STEPS TO STRENGTHEN SOVIET TIES WITH THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION. PRAVDA REPORTS THE WEST GERMANY SPD DRAFT PARTY PROGRAM FOR 1976 TO 1980 WHICH REPORTEDLY SAYS "THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO THE POLICY OF DETENTE" AND STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FRG TREATIES WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES OF EUROPE. THE REPORT ALSO CITES THE DOCUMENT AS FAVORING MORE ACTIVE ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND TIES IN OTHER FIELDS. PRAVDA REPORTS THE 5TH SESSION OF THE SOVIET -UK COMMISSION ON SCIENTIFIC /TECHNICAL AND TRADE/ECONOMIC COOPERATION OPENING IN LONDON ON MAY 11. IZVESTIYA AND PRAVDA BOTH REPORT THE SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN TASS AND AFP ON "WIDENING EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION". PRAVDA CARRIES A LONG COMMENTARY IN ITS SERIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CALLED "EUROPE AFTER HELSINKI" WHICH DESCRIBES CLOSE SOVIET-FINNISH RELATIONS, AND SPECIFICALLY, COOPERATION IN THE BALTIC REGION. TAKING THE OTHER TACK, IZVESTIYA DENOUNCES NORWEGIAN "REACTIONARY CIRCLES" WHICH FAVOR STRENGTHENING MILITARY PREPARATIONS AS A PART OF ANTI-SOVIET PROPAGANDA. THE ITEM CITES PRESS REPORTS IN VARIOUS NATO COUNTRIES ABOUT PROBLEMS REGARDING THE "TERRITORIAL SEA" AND SAYS THAT THESE REPORTS ARE CONJURED UP BY "ATLANTIC GENERALS" WHO OPPOSE THE PROCESS OF DETENTE. STOESSEL

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